

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 4, the first full paragraph, lines 3-14, as follows:

Erickson in U.S. Patent No. 5,970,142 [~~docket X-245~~] discloses one method wherein the bitstream transferred from the external storage device is in encrypted form and the PLD being configured has a key to decrypt the encrypted bitstream. The PLD receives the encrypted bitstream and uses its key to generate the unencrypted bitstream which is then loaded into the configuration memory cells to configure the PLD. Because in this method the key is not passed from the external storage device to the PLD, a copier would not have access to the key. Without the key, the copier would have a difficult time recovering the bitstream. Other methods are also known.